

Keeney Cub Chronicles

Volume 6 Number 2

March 2014

Newsletter Editor: Mrs. Malan

From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Martin-Beaulieu

Dear Keeney Families,

In this month's newsletter, you will read about the different math topics, skills, and concepts that are being explored throughout our school. At each grade level, students are having the opportunity to behave as mathematicians and think critically about how to manipulate numbers and solve problems. This is an exciting time for math education in schools as we are building our students' capacity to think differently about math and become more engaged with the world of mathematics.

As many of you know, either through your reading of current events in education or by attempting to help your child with math homework, math is taught in a much different way than it used to be. Students are now expected to demonstrate understanding of concepts rather than simply memorizing facts or algorithms. There is an intentional focus on number sense so that

students who multiply 27 by 82 correctly, know how and why they arrived at their answer. Although this may frustrate some of us adults who are trying to help children with their math homework, this is an important shift to make in math instruction. We want to develop critical thinkers who have conceptual understanding of content and skills. How many of us truly know why we "carry the one" or add that extra zero to an answer? If you are someone who doesn't know, don't be ashamed or alarmed. Soon your young elementary child will be able to explain it to you!

As you learn more about the Common Core Math Standards, you will hear references to the Standards for Mathematical Practice and the Standards for Mathematical Content. Mathematical Practices speak to the habits, and strategies that mathematicians use when solving math problems. Mathematical Content speaks to specific math topics. Together, these standards create a comprehensive foundation for mathematical instruction.

Enjoy this edition of the Keeney Cub Chronicles! We are all mathematicians and with the new Common Core we will become even more skilled at this craft and more artful in our demonstration of understanding math concepts.



Please see the end of this newsletter for additional information from Ms. Martin

Kindergarten

Mrs. Kratz, Mrs. Woble, Mrs. Spector

Kindergarten has been very busy. We celebrated the 100th day of school sharing and counting objects brought in from home. We counted everything from ants (plastic) to zippers (on coats and back packs)! We made groups of ten and then counted the groups to reach 100. We continued to practice counting to 100 by ones and tens and building the teen numerals with tens and ones. We continue to work on making equal groups. We will begin to learn about joining numbers and comparing groups (more and fewer). Ask your child to show you what they have learned!

First Grade

Ms. Elmore, Mrs. Sisson, Mrs. Karlins

First graders are hard at work learning strategies to add and subtract within 100. To help us, we are using the hundred chart, base ten blocks, and dimes and pennies. You can reinforce this skill by giving your child some dimes and pennies and asking them to show you how they can solve an addition number sentence such as $27 + 40$ or $74 - 30$. For the remainder of the year we will continue to work on fact fluency with addition and subtraction within 20. In the classroom students have multiple opportunities to practice addition and subtraction. Students are engaged in workstations, computer websites and flashcards to help improve number sense and fact fluency. Please continue to support your child's learning by offering them opportunities to practice at home. Visit the school's K-8 Resource Page to check out the math links.

Second Grade

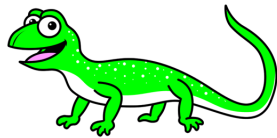
Miss Branciforte, Mrs. Patrick

We are becoming magnificent math problem solvers here in second grade. We show our math thinking by using a variety of strategies including mentally, with base-ten blocks, a number line, money, hundreds chart,

and the algorithm. We have been learning and practicing adding and subtracting numbers to 1,000 with and without regrouping. At home, please continue to work with your children on their addition and subtraction math facts so that they can become automatic!

Third Grade

Mrs. Silvia, Mrs. Steiger,
Mrs. Frallicciardi



Leaping Lizards!

Third graders can measure! In math students have been learning all about measurement and data. We created and labeled liquid liter lizards, planned an imaginary field trip using our skills with elapsed time, and are telling time to the nearest half-hour, 5 minute, and minute increments. We studied volume of solids, mass in grams and kilograms, and used data to interpret and create graphs. Next we will focus on linear measurements using customary and standard units.

Fourth Grade

Mrs. Christensen,
Mr. Trungadi, Mrs. Thompson

Students in Grade 4 have been challenged to master all basic facts this year. All children have access to the **xtramath website** that is bookmarked on the Keeney homepage. Those students who are on **Fastmath** visit the program at least 2-3 days a week. If students have access to computers at home, we ask that they practice at home as well. There are also several basic fact games students can access online. For example, if students go to **aaamath.com** and click on *multiplication*, they can actually set up their own games to practice facts. Of course if students do not have access to computers at home, old-fashioned flash cards work well, too. As fourth graders continue on in their math careers, they are going to see more and more that knowledge of basic facts is the foundation for many concepts. And why not master these now?

Recently students in the fourth grade have entered into the amazing world of fractions. They are able to identify a numerator and denominator. They know that a fraction can be considered a division problem. By playing various games

they are becoming familiar with equivalent fractions and they are beginning to compare and order fractions. As we begin to move away from pictorial representations and start to find equivalent fractions using multiplication and we start to simplify fractions using division, students are realizing the importance of having basic fact knowledge readily available.

When provided with the following problem:

**"4/8 is the answer.
What is the question?"**

Fourth Graders had a variety of answers.

Elijah Torres said, "4 kids wanted to share 8 pizzas. How much will each person get?"

"What is $2/8 + 2/8$?" Jessi Smith responded.

"What is equivalent to $2/4$?" asked Julienna Lofstrom, Mary Valentine, and Alex Lopez.

"What is an equivalent fraction for $8/16$?" Quinlan Orpheus-Diana interjected.

"What fraction is equal to $\frac{1}{2}$?" added Mia Hickey and Cailyn Flanagan.

Fifth Grade

Mrs. Smith, Ms. Borcea,
Miss Wallmark, Ms. Olesnech

Fifth graders have started exploring a new math unit entitled, Algebraic Thinking where they are learning and practicing the Order of Operations. The students are utilizing the PEMDAS acronym that stands for (Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally: Parenthesis, Exponents, Multiplication/Division, Addition/Subtraction). Remember, multiplication and division goes in order of appearance from left to right, as do addition and subtraction. As the unit progresses, students will learn how to identify and evaluate numerical expressions involving equations as well as word problems. In this unit, students will be working on identifying number patterns where they will be given a pattern, will identify the pattern and state the rule for that particular pattern. Finally students will work on graphing ordered pairs, plot points on coordinate planes and on occasion, create artistic creations as a result.



Representatives from the Discovery Center will be at Keeney Street School on:

**March 12th
5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.,**

They will be providing information to parents/guardians about their program. They will also answer questions/concerns and distribute registration forms.

Students have the opportunity to attend

**Discovery Center
in Woodstock, CT
from May 5th-May 9th**

Hope to see your there!

Art Department

Mrs. Puntty

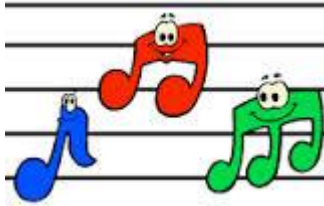


We are completing Square One and the PTA is almost ready to send our wonderful Keeney artwork to the Square One Company. Our work will return to us with fundraiser packets in time to order for Mothers' Day. I want to give special thanks to parents, Josie Robertson, Tamara Speaks, Amber Moriarty, and Niki Gallagher who helped to wrap up this project in the classroom, It is always wonderful to have parents in the classroom and an extra set of helping hands.

Grades K through four are beginning sculpture units. We will start with paper and cardboard manipulation and move into clay, which is always a favorite. **Fifth graders** will complete a unit in painting and color before they move into their clay work. They will study the African American artist William H. Johnson

Music

Miss Haveles



Our Keeney cubs recently performed at two sporting events!



On Friday, February 21, 2014 our students sang "Eye of the Tiger" by Survivor at a Hartford Wolf Pack hockey game. They sang wonderfully and had a great evening with their families.



Also, on Sunday, March 2, 2014 Keeney students sang the National Anthem before the start of the University of Hartford's Hartford Hawks game. Ms. Vivian Doughty, our music student teacher, conducted the students as they sang. Ms. Doughty will graduate from The Hartt School at the University of Hartford in May. We would like to thank Kerri Chernevak and Querston Smalley for organizing these events through the PTA.

Spring Concert: We will have our Spring Concert on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at 10:00am and 2:00pm in the Keeney gym.

Evening concert for parents and families

will be held on

Thursday, May, 22, 2014

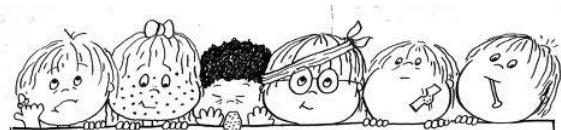
7:00pm

Bennet Academy's Cone Gymnasium

We look forward to seeing you at the evening concert. Please mark your calendars!

Health News

Nurse Sandy



The Foundation for Dental Outreach
is offering:

FREE DENTAL CARE!

April 25-26th

XL Center in Hartford

Doors open at 6am and no appointment
is necessary.

Visit www.cfdo.org for more
information.

Take advantage of this free service
and treat your smile!

THE NURSE'S OFFICE IS IN NEED OF:

- Pants (sizes 4-10)
- New underwear (sizes 4-10)
- socks

GETTING FIT CAN BE FUN!

Hiking and walking are excellent ways
to work on your health and fitness
along with sharing good times with
family and friends. Manchester and
surrounding towns have many hiking
trails to try out and explore in the
winter and in the warmer
weather. Check the Manchester

Parks and Recreation website and the
CT Forest and Park Association to
find new areas to walk, hike, bike,
snow shoe or cross country ski.

Try these five suggestions to help your child Love fitness.

1. Encourage family connection
through fitness. Make the
activity a family event or outing
that is fun and provides
exercise.
2. Model healthy behavior. Your
child will learn much by
example.
3. Encourage variety and choice
when it comes to exercise and
sports for your kids. This can
help avoid boredom and
increase interests to lead your
child to healthy & fit lifelong
habits.
4. Encourage unstructured play
and fun. This is important for
fitness to be fun and
imaginative.
5. Limit Screen time. Less time
sedentary watching a screen
will allow more time for play and
activity. The American
Academy of Pediatrics
recommends limiting screen
time to 1-2 hours a day for
children over 2yo.

Being physically active will benefit your child in so many ways. The following are just a few areas that exercise will help!

- Physical activity boosts confidence
- Builds determination and character
- Improves sleep quality
- Raises concentration and academic performance
- Builds healthy muscles and bones

Literacy Room

Miss Swan



Meet the Producer Day at CCC Farm Stand

Stop into CCC Farm Stand and Market at 35 Oakland Street in Manchester on Saturday, March 22, 2014 from 10 am to 4 pm for "Meet the Producer Day" to get the chance to meet the farmers and producers who bring you only the freshest CT grown and manufactured products. Try homemade bread from Cupola Hollow

Farm and maple syrup from Irish Acres Farm. Learn about how to tap trees, boil it down and the different grades of syrup. Learn about pasture fed beef, as well as lamb and goat meat from Maple View Farm and Hillview Farm. Come down to have a piece of jewelry made unique for you and learn about and try some raw milk. Meet a cow from Buttercup farm and a bunch of farm animals from Aussakita Acres Farm. Alpacas, pigs and goats will be available to meet and pet!

Check our Facebook page (CCC Farm Stand and Market) for more details and times that particular vendors will be at the stand during the day.

Numeracy Room

Ms. Sherman



EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES THAT REINFORCE MATH:

Here are some fun, easy ways to incorporate math learning into your family life—without a lot of time, effort, or money.

In the kitchen - Cooking, baking, and using a recipe is a terrific way to help children understand better fractions. With younger children, show them all the different sizes of measuring cups and spoons and show them how measuring two half-cups of flour or sugar gives them exactly the same amount as one full cup. Ask older children to help you cut a recipe in half or double a recipe.

Money - If your child is trying to save up to buy something special for themselves or others, keep a chart of how much money they will need and what they have saved.

Family time - Look for games and activities that reinforce math skills, whether they're computer games (like Xtra math), or old favorites like dominoes, card games, or puzzles.

EXTRA ! EXTRA ! Keeney Cub News



KEENEY CUB CONFERENCE

This month's conference was hosted by our fourth grade and the creative members from the leadership team.



Through skits we learned what our morning arrivals to the classroom and afternoon dismissals should look like.



Whether we are coming or going, Keeney Cubs respectfully acknowledge each other and help whenever we can.



Our fourth graders exhibited puppet creations of famous people and reported how these individuals were able to achieve great things even though they encountered great difficulties along the way.



Mary Cheney Library
586 Main Street
Manchester

Special Literacy Story Time - Come to Mary Cheney Library on:

**Saturday, March 15th
10:30am**

for a great, free program

The Pi Beta Phi Manchester Area Alumnae Club will treat families to stories and a craft with snacks and goody bags. Call 860-645-0577 for more info. Location: Mary Cheney Library Building, 586 Main St, Manchester, CT 06040

R.E.A.D. (Reading Education Assistance Dogs)

**Saturday, March 22nd
1:00 – 3:00pm**

The dogs from Tails of Joy will visit the Mary Cheney Library Building from 1-3pm. Beginning readers through middle school readers may sign up for a time to read with one of these special dogs. Participants will also receive a free Tails of Joy bookmark. **Registration required.** Call 860-645-0577 to reserve a time slot. Location: Mary Cheney Library Building, 586 Main St, Manchester, CT 06040

Custom
jewelry made
just for you!
~Julie's Jewels~



Learn about RAW
MILK and have
a taste!
~Buttercup Farm~

Meet the Producer Day at

CCC Farm Stand

When: SATURDAY
MARCH 22nd 2014

Where: 35 Oakland St. Manchester, CT

Time: 10am to 4pm (NEW TIME)

Admission: FREE

SAMPLE
HOME
MADE
BREAD

~Cupola

~New Farm~

please note, not all events are for the duration of the day. Check our facebook page for a schedule of events

It's NEVER too late to join!

We are a very active group, doing many great things that benefit all of the Keeney children.

Top 3 Reasons why you should join PTA TODAY:

1. It's informative, for both the parents and child.
2. It's inviting. New to town? New to Keeney? Come meet some great people!
3. It's inclusive of all. We strive to offer you many opportunities to step into your child's world, and when you do, you will see your child blossom even more.

It's NEVER too late to join! Visit:

<http://publicschools.manchesterct.gov/uploaded/Keeney/PTA/PTAmembership.pdf>

March/April PTA Fundraisers and Family Events:

- Our next meeting will be held **Tuesday, April 8th** at 6:30pm. Bring the KIDS! We'll have an all NEW program from the LUTZ!
- Keeney Night at Chili's Restaurant in Manchester...**Tuesday, March 11**. Present your coupon provided and Keeney will receive 10% of your total check! It applies to lunch, dinner and take out meals.
- **Wednesday, March 12th** 5-6pm Keeney library, 5th grade Discovery Center discussion with 5th grade teachers
- Mother/Son Bowling Event **Sunday March 16th** from 10am – 12noon
- Parent Teacher Conference Week with Early Dismissal **March 18, 19 & 20** at 1:17pm
- Spirit Day...**Friday, March 21st** PAJAMA DAY!!!!
- Jump Rope for Heart **March 25, 26 and 27th** Volunteers needed at 10:20 to 12:35 and 1:15 to 3:20 each day. Email Mr. DeNies directly if you are available for help serve water to the kids.
b21gdeni@manchesterct.gov
- Please continue to send in your **Box Tops For Education** and shop our special link to **Amazon.com**. Please visit our PTA web page on the Keeney School site at:
<http://publicschools.manchesterct.gov/page.cfm?p=642>
(scroll down and click Amazon For Keeney & BoxTops for Education listed under Support Our PTA)

Upcoming Events.....Save the Dates:

- Saturday, **April 5th**...Rock Cats Game at 1:35pm!! Tickets going on sale soon
- Friday, **April 25th**...Mad Scientists Return for a FREE Family Fun Night! Info coming home soon

Special **THANK YOU** to the following parents and volunteers who generously donated their time:

- Thank you Damaris & Angel Rodriguez, Carolyn Brothers, Gina Jones, Keeney "Flash Mob" Teachers/Principal, Ms. Haveles, Mrs. Jalbert, Mr. DeNies, Michelle Ryerson, Michelle Hickey, Heather Zilora, Amber Moriarity, Josie Robertson...another FANTASTIC Keeney Variety Show!!! Our Keeney Cubs are AMAZING!!!
- Thank you Kerri Chervenak for another action packed night at the Wolf Pack!
- Thank you Querstin Smalley for our newest addition of fun Keeney Family Events with the Hartford Hawks!



Keeney Cubs-Upper Right Level
Singing "Eye of the Tiger" at
Hartford WolfPack Game



Variety Show Performers
having some photo fun
before their big performances



Volunteer Opportunities:

- Square One Art is in need of your help. Please contact Josie Robertson josieleee2001@gmail.com
- Munson's Candy needs your help sorting once our order. Please contact pallen@travelers.com
- Jump Rope for Heart March 25, 26 and 27th Volunteers needed at 10:20 to 12:35 and 1:15 to 3:20 each day. Email Mr. DeNies directly if you are available for help serve water to the kids. b21gdeni@manchesterct.gov
- Cluster Leaders who are willing to guide and assist our Cubs to uncover and enhance interests and talents. Expertise in a particular field is NOT a requirement! Passion for learning is! For more information please contact Megan Thompson b39mthom@manchesterct.gov Scott Trungadi strungadi@manchesterct.gov

Additional information from Ms. Martin



Testing Information:

This month we will be assessing our 3rd grade, 4th grade, and 5th grade students on the Smarter Balanced Assessment. This assessment is replacing the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) in all areas except for 5th grade science. All students in grades 3 - 5 will take the English Language Arts and Mathematics portion of the Smarter Balanced Assessment. Testing will begin on March 18th and will run through April 4th. Our finalized testing schedule will be shared with the parents of those tested grade levels.

The Smarter Balanced Assessment this year is a “field test” which essentially means that we are testing the test. Information from this year’s assessments will be used to evaluate the testing software, ensure quality of testing questions, and evaluate the effectiveness of test administration and training materials. Individual student scores will not be released from this year’s field test.

If you would like additional information on the Smarter Balanced Assessment, please visit their website at: <http://www.smarterbalanced.org>. Through this website, you will also be able to access practice tests for students to take.

Summer Advantage Academy of Manchester (S.A.A.M.) Information:

This summer, the district summer school program (S.A.A.M.) is changing in its focus and intent. Instead of the program being open to all students, students in kindergarten through 3rd grade will be invited to the program based on academic need. The tool used to determine this need is our Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment, or NWEA test (Northwest Evaluation Association). Students scoring at a certain level in either the reading or math portion of this assessment have received an invitation and registration packet to S.A.A.M. Please submit your completed registration packet by March 21st if you would like your child to participate in this program.

For questions regarding S.A.A.M., please contact:

The S.A.A.M. Program Planning Team
S.A.A.M.Program@manchesterct.gov or
Linda Cavanaugh, Chief Program Planner: 860-647-6397

Innovation Days:

Innovation is spreading here at Keeney Street School! Teachers are beginning to explore ways in which students can have more autonomy, work toward mastery on something meaningful to them, and experience a greater sense of purpose in their work at school. One strategy for doing this is to implement "Innovation Days". On these days, students have the opportunity to design their own learning on a topic of interest to them. The end result is a presentation to the class on what they have learned. Student presentations have consisted of song, digitally created movies, power point presentations, as well as more traditional sharing of information. I have had the opportunity to watch students learn in this setting and I have heard students teach about bone structure, how cars work, what it takes to become a choreographer, the dangers of video game addiction, and much more. Additionally, I had the opportunity to ask some students about why they chose to study their topic. Some of their answers are below:

4th Grade Girl: I am studying politics because I want to be the president someday. I might be the first girl president!

4th Grade Boy: My topic is cars because I was inspired by my dad who is a service manager at a car dealership. (His presentation included a showing of an actual piston and an explanation of its purpose in cars.)

5th Grade Boy: I think sharks are really interesting and I don't get to learn about them that much.

Innovation Days give students the opportunity to be decision makers, take more ownership over their learning, be engaged in something that is intrinsically motivating for them, and work toward a sense of mastery on something that matters to them. As educators, we are entrusted with the job of preparing our students for the future. The fact is, however, none of us really know what that future is going to hold for our kids. Our students will likely have jobs that haven't been created yet and perhaps they will have jobs that they create themselves. How do we prepare them for this? We must give them multiple opportunities to be decision makers, think independently, collaborate with others, and innovate. I am excited that for many of our students, those opportunities are happening for them.

I will be sure and share more about Innovations Days in future newsletters!